

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 SS-20 INR-10 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 INRE-00 MMS-03 DRC-01

NSC-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 /146 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9556

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IN US UK

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. THE UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) TICKER IS CARRYING A REPORT THAT IN PUBLIC ELECTIONEERING MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF UTTAR PRADESH (UP) PRIME MINISTER GANDHI HAS EXPRESSED INDIA'S CONCERN OVER US PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA. ACCORDING TO THE TICKER, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THE MOVE TO SET UP A NUCLEAR BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA NATURALLY CONSTITUTED A THREAT TO INDIA'S SECURITY AS IT HAD OBVIOUS "AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS".

2. IT WILL BE HARD TO CONFIRM EXACTLY WHAT MRS. GANDHI SAID AS HER ELECTION SPEECHES ARE EXTEMPORANEOUS AND REPORTING ON THEM IS NOT VERY ACCURATE. WE NOTE THAT UNI CARRIES ONLY THE WORDS "AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS" IN QUOTES.

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3. WE ARE THIS AFTERNOON URGENTLY ASKING THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR A REPORT ON WHAT MRS. GANDHI
SAID BUT WE RE NOT LIKELY TO GET AN EARLY RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT: BESET BY PROBLEMS ALL OVER INDIA, MRS.
GANDHI IS BEING HARD PRESSED IN THE UP COMING ELECTIONS.
IF THIS REPORT IS ACCURATE, IT IS OBVIOUS SHE CONTINUES
TO USE THE US TO SERVE HER DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES.
SCHNEIDER

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